

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 INT-05 TRSE-00 HA-05

/091 W

-----081765 131204Z /45 40

R 112308Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TL SECSTATE WASHDC 1384

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 7178

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB PINT PE

SUBJ: LABOR TROUBLES CONTINUE

REF: (A) LIMA 7021, (B) LIMA 7046

SUMMARY. THE FIVE LEFTIST PARTIES IN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY (THE PDC, TWO GROUPS OF THE PSR, THE PCP, FOCEP AND UDP) ARE RARELY IN AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES, BUT ALL LOOK FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO EMBARRASS THE GOVERNMENT, TO IDENTIFY WITH WORKER PROTESTS AND TO DETRACT FROM APRA'S CLAIM TO REPRESENT THE DEMOCRATIC LEFT. ONE OF THE FIRST MOTIONS INTRODUCED IN THE ASSEMBLY BY THIS GROUP WAS A CALL FOR A GENERAL LABOR AMNESTY; I.E., THE REHIRING OF WORKERS FIRED DURING THE PAST 14 MONTHS FOR ILLEGAL STRIKE ACTIVITIES. THE GOP TEMPORARILY AT LEAST IS RESISTING FURTHER CONCESSIONS TO POLITICIANS AND UNIONS OVER THIS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. PSR DELEGATE MIGUEL ECHEANDEA TOLD THE LABOR ATTACHE THAT THE LEFT HOPES TO FORCE A VOTE ON THIS ISSUE EARLY IN THE ASSEMBLY AND THAT APRA AND PPC'S STAND ON THIS QUESTION WILL CLEARLY IDENTIFY THEM AS "RIGHTISTS" OPPOSED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE. ECHEANDIA CLAIMS 5 THOUSAND WORKERS HAVE BEEN FIRED FOR STRIKE ACTIVITIES. HOWEVER, THE MINISTER OF LABOR RECENTLY TOLD CTP'S JULIO CRUZADO THAT THERE WERE 302 DISCHARGED WORKERS IN STATE-
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OWNED ENTERPRISES AND FROM SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION (SPCC) MINE AND SMELTER AT TOQUEPALA AND ILO AND TWELVE HUNDRED PLUS IN PRIVATE INDUSTRY. EARLY THIS YEAR CARETAS NEWSMAGAZINE HAD ESTIMATED THE NUMBER OF "DESPIDIDOS" AT ABOUT 2,300.

2. SOME WORKERS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTING DISCHARGE PAYMENTW, GIVING UP THEIR CLAIMS TO REINSTATEMENT. FOCEP'S GENARO LEDESMA, HERNAN

CUENTAS AND HUGO BLANCO AS WELL AS UDP'S VICTOR CUADROS AND JAVIER DIAZ HAVE BEEN VISITING THE MINES TO ENCOURAGE WORKERS THERE NOT RPT NOT TO ACCEPT RETIREMENT OR RESIGNATION PAY BUT TO HOLD OUT FOR BEING REHIRED. THE LEFT OBVIOUSLY ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THIS ISSUE AS IT SEEKS TO INTIMIDATE THE GOP AND PLACE APRA IN A BAD LIGHT POLITICALLY.

3. GOP MINISTER OF LABOR, JOSE GARCIA CALDERON, MET PRIVATELY WITH CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT HAYA DE LA TORRE AUGUST 4. GARCIA CALDERON SOUGHT HAYA'S SUPPORT FOR THE LABOR MINISTER'S OPPOSITION TO HIRING THE FIRED WORKERS. HAYA WAS SYMPATHETIC BUT DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF. THEY PLAN TO MEET AGAIN AUGUST 12. PRESIDENT MORALES BERMUDEZ WANTS TO ISSUE A DECREE ORDERING THESE WORKERS REHIRED, BUT REPORTEDLY, A MAJORITY OF THE CABINET REMAINS OPPOSED TO THIS SOLUTION. GARCIA CALDERON, MINISTER OF MINES JUAN SANCHEZ GONZALES, AND MINISTER OF VIVIENDA GERONIMO CAFFERATA MARAZZI AUGUST 8 REPORTEDLY THREATENED TO RESIGN IF THE GOP ORDERS THE DISMISSED WORKERS REHIRED.

4. CTP SECRETARY GENERAL AND ASSEMBLY DELEGATE JULIO CRUZADO TOLD SANCHEZ AND GARCIA CALDERON THAT IF FIRED WORKERS ARE REHIRED AT GOP-RUN ENTERPRISES (CENTROMIN, SIDER PERU, HIERRO PERU, AND PICSA), THE CTP WILL CALL FOR REPOSITIONING OF ALL WORKERS OR A NATIONAL STRIKE. CRUZADO OPPOSES REHIRING THE FIRED WORKERS BUT IS CONCERNED THAT THE GOP WILL PLACE CTP (AND APRA) IN AN UNTENABLE POSITION SEEKING APRA SUPPORT TO RESIST REHIRING
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AND THEN SUDDENLY YIELDING TO LEFTIST DEMANDS AND DECREETING A GENERAL LABOR AMNESTY.

5. CTP LABOR LAWYER AND ASSEMBLY DELEGATE JOSMELL MUNOZ HAS REVIVED HIS EARLIER SUGGESTION THAT FIRED WORKERS BE TREATED AS SUFFERING FROM A WORK ACCIDENT AND PENSIONED OFF UNDER SOCIAL SECURITY. CRUZADO HAS CALLED FOR THE CREATON OF AN EMERGENCY NATIONAL LABOR COUNCIL CONSISTING OF GOP OFFICIALS, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE FOUR LABOR CENTRALS (CGTP, CTP, CTRP AND CNT) AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM PRIVATE BUSINESS TO TREAT THE DESPIDIDO ISSUE. FOCEP'S HUGO BLANCO ENDORSED CRUZADO'S PROPOSAL IN THE ASSEMBLY.

6. FOR ITS PART THE GOP SEEMS TO HAVE SUPPORTED AT LEAST TEMPORARILY THE LABOR MINISTER'S OPPOSITION TO MORE CONCESSIONS. THE GOVERNMENT HAS DECLARED THE STRIKE IN THE MINES ILLEGAL AND ORDERED MINE AND METALWORKERS TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS AUGUST 11. SOUTHERN PERU COPPER CORPORATION OFFICIAL TOLD EMBASSY THAT WORKERS AT TOQUEPALA AND ILO MET AUGUST 10 TO DISCUSS THE GOP ORDER AND DECIDED TO CONTINUE THE STRIKE IN DEFIANCE OF THE DECREE. HOWEVER, MINE LEADERS ARE MEETING AUGUST 11 AND 12 WITH LABOR MINISTER GARCIA CALDERON AND SPCC OFFICIALS. THE GOP AND SPCC WILL OFFER "DISCHARGE PAY" TO FIRED WORKERS IN RETURN FOR THEIR

ABANDONING ANY FUTURE CLAIMS. ALTHOUGH SOME WORKERS RETURNED TO CENTROMIN'S THREE UNITS INITIALLY INVOLVED IN THE STRIKE REFTEL B, FOUR MORE MINES HAVE JOINED THE PROTEST. IN THE GOP AND SPCC MINES AND SMELTERS AN ESTIMATED 9,000 WORKERS ARE ON STRIKE OUT OF THE APPROXIMATELY 14,000 WORKFORCE.

7. THE GOP HAS DECLARED A STATE OF EMERGENCY FOR THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND THE PUBLIC SERVICES UNDER ITS CHARGE. THE DECREE EMPOWERS THE MINISTRY TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH THROUGH THE OPERATION OF 187 HOSPITALS AND CLINICS IN THE COUNTRY. WORKERS ARE ORDERED TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS AUGUST 11 IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR THE 1800 SOLES RAISE THIS MONTH AND 2400 IN DECEMBER. BANKWORKERS HELD ANOTHER WORK STOPPAGE AUGUST 9 IN SUPPORT OF ITS CALL FOR A SALARY INCREASE
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AND THE REHIRING OF 71 FIRED BANKWORKERS.

8. COMMENT: PREDICTABLY FNTC, FOCEP AND OTHER LEFTIST PARTIES TRIED TO TURN THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY'S FIRST ORDINARY SESSION AUGUST 10 AWAY FROM DEBATING RULES OF ORDER, TOWARD DISCUSSIONS OF LABOR AMNESTY, ETC. HOWEVER, APRA, PPC, ALONG WITH UN AND MDP CONTROL 66 OF THE 100 VOTES AND THE LEFT CANNOT LONG AVOID DISCUSSING THE MOTIONS THAT THE RIGHT AND CENTER ARE DETERMINED TO MOVE TO THE FLOOR. NONETHELESS THE LEFT WILL KEEP PRESSURING THE ASSEMBLY AND THE GOP FOR LABOR AMNESTY. CRUZADO'S THEORY THAT A DETERMINED STAND BY THE GOP WILL PRODUCE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUY OFF FIRED WORKERS MAY BE OVERLY OPTIMISTIC. SHLAUDEMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: LABOR RELATIONS, UNION GOVERNMENT RELATIONS, LABOR STRIKES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LIMA07178
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780331-0436
Format: TEL
From: LIMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780874/aaaackbu.tel
Line Count: 148
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 17d7f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 LIMA 7021, 78 LIMA 7046
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1769940
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR TROUBLES CONTINUE
TAGS: ELAB, PINT, PE
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/17d7f264-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014